

DRAFT

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR
ON EPA'S OZONE STANDARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

I was disappointed to learn of the poor policy decision made by EPA on ozone standards. While good air quality is important to public health, policy decisions on ozone standards should not be made in a vacuum. All of the costs and benefits of a standard should be considered, and the new standard announced today by EPA could result in serious economic challenges to several areas of Mississippi, most notably the Gulf Coast as we try to rebuild.

The fact is that air quality is expected to improve significantly in Mississippi over the next decade due to programs recently enacted by EPA and being carried out by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. EPA's decision to lower the national ozone standard is unnecessary, expensive, and not in the interest of economic growth. With the loss of potential jobs and economic stagnancy in new non-attainment areas, I question the real costs or benefits to public health as a result of the new standard in these areas.###